

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, SL

SUBJECT: SIERRA LEONE FISHERIES

REF: FREETOWN A-53, MAY 5, 1973

THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS), NOAA, COMMERCE, IS PREPARING A BACKGROUND ANALYSIS ON THE FISHERIES OF SIERRA LEONE. NMFS WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE THE MOST RECENT ANNUAL REPORT OF GOSL'S FISHERIES DIVISION AND SOME INSIGHT INTO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. ACCORDING TO FAO DATA, SIERRA LEONE'S FISH CATCH DECREASED 10,000 METRIC TONS IN 1968, AFTER STEADY INCREASES DURING THE 1960S. IN 1972, THE CATCH INCREASED OVER 20,000 TONS. WHAT CAUSED THESE DRAMATIC CHANGES?

2. ACCORDING TO AVAILABLE DATA, THE CATCHES BY SIERRA UNCLASSIFIED

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LEONE'S TRAWL FISHERY REMAINED STAGNANT IN RECENT YEARS, WHILE THE CATCH OF THE ARTISANAL CANOE FISHERMEN INCREASED GREATLY. WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR THIS TREND?

3. ACCORDING TO FAO DATA, 2,000 METRIC TONS OF HERRING (SARDINELLA EBA) AND 18,000 TONS OF BONGA (ETHMALOSA FIMBRIATA) WERE CAUGHT IN 1969. BEGINNING IN 1970,

HOWEVER, THE BONGA FISHERY HAS BEEN MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT FOR HERRING. WHAT HAS CAUSED THIS SHIFT?

4. FAO DOES NOT LIST TUNA AS ONE OF THE SPECIES CAUGHT BY SIERRA LEONE'S FISHING INDUSTRY, ALTHOUGH SUCH A FISHERY DOES TAKE PLACE. NMFS WOULD APPRECIATE DATA ON SIERRA LEONE'S TUNA LANDINGS (BY SPECIES IF AVAILABLE) FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS, OR FOR 1960-1974 IF READILY AVAILABLE. DOES SIERRA LEONE HAVE ANY FISHERY VENTURES WITH FOREIGN TUNA COMPANIES FROM JAPAN, TAIWAN OR SOUTH KOREA, AND ARE LANDINGS BY SUCH COMPANIES INCLUDED IN SIERRA LEONE'S CATCH STATISTICS? THE TUNA SITUATION WAS BRIEFLY DISCUSSED IN REFAIRGRAM; HOWEVER, DUE TO INTEREST BY U.S. TUNA INDUSTRY A CURRENT UPDATE IS REQUESTED.

5. FAO STATISTICAL DATA INDICATE THAT THE CATCH OF "MARINE CRUSTACEANS" (A CATEGORY WHICH INCLUDES SHRIMP) DOUBLED FROM 1971-73 WHEN 1,000 METRIC TONS WAS LANDED. IN 1973, THE LANDINGS REMAINED CONSTANT. THE VALUE OF LANDINGS AND THE SPECIES BEING CAUGHT IS NOT INDICATED BY FAO. LETTERS FROM THE FORMER REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE FOR AFRICA, MR. DI PALMA, INDICATE THAT THE COUNTRY HAS A "RICH SHRIMP RESOURCE WHICH IS INADEQUATELY EXPLOITED." NMFS WOULD APPRECIATE ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON THE SHRIMP RESOURCE OFF SIERRA LEONE. IF SUCH INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN PRINTED FORM, TWO COPIES WOULD BE APPRECIATED. OF SPECIAL INTEREST IS THE FOLLOWING DATA:

A. SPECIES OF SHRIMP AVAILABLE.

B. ESTIMATED MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELD PER SPECIES PER YEAR.

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C. STATUS OF THE SHRIMP FISHING FLEET.

D. JOINT SHRIMP VENTURES WITH FOREIGN FIRMS.

E. RESEARCH ON THE SHRIMP RESOURCE. WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

F. AVAILABILITY OF DOCK SPACE AND COLD STORAGE FACILITIES.

6. NMFS UNDERSTANDS THAT OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION (OPIC) IS STUDYING THE FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING A SHRIMP FISHERY FOR EXPORT. OPIC WILL CONTACT EMBASSY DIRECTLY BY LETTER. NMFS WOULD APPRECIATE

A COPY OF THE REPLY. MAW

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